

Message Text

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ORIGIN NRC-07

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PLS PASS TO VISITING NRC COMMISSIONER KENNEDY - CABLE 2

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TECH, JA

SUBJECT:INFORMATION FOR COMMISSIONER KENNEDY

1. SENATOR HART HAS CALLED FOR HEARINGS ON WASTE MANAGEMENT ON MARCH 22. HE HAS REQUESTED THAT ALL COMMISSIONERS BE PRESENT. CURRENT PLANS CALL FOR COMMISSIONER GILINSKY TO REPRESENT THE CHAIRMAN.

2. AN ARTICLE APPEARED IN THE N.Y. TIMES AND WASHINGTON STAR ON SUNDAY REGARDING MCTIERNAN'S REPORT ON NRC'S USE OF CONSULTANTS. IN SUMMARY, THE ARTICLE INDICATED THAT THE INTERNAL AUDIT OF THE NRC SHOWS PERSONNEL AND PAY RECORDS WERE MANIPULATED TO CONCEAL THE EXISTENCE OF A LARGE WORK-
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FORCE OF CONSULTANTS. THE STUDY, NOT INTENDED FOR PUBLIC RELEASE, WAS MADE AVAILABLE TO THE TIMES BY SEN. GAYLORD NELSON, D-WIS. HE URGED THAT CONGRESS DETERMINE "WHAT THE AGENCY'S EXPERIENCE MAY IMPLY FOR THE USE OF CONSULTANTS ELSEWHERE IN THE GOVERNMENT." ON THE NRC'S PAYROLL ARE TWO FORMER CONGRESSMEN, APPOINTED TO THE SOUTHERN AND WESTERN INTERSTATE NUCLEAR BOARDS BY FORMER PRESIDENT NIXON, WHOSE

COMBINED SALARIES AND EXPENSES TOTALED \$186,000 FOR A TWO-AND-A-HALF-YEAR PERIOD. THE AUDIT, SUBMITTED TO THE AGENCY'S COMMISSIONERS IN SEPTEMBER 1977, ALSO SHOWS THAT AT LEAST TWO CONSULTANTS WERE PAID \$465 A DAY AT A TIME

WHEN THE LIMIT BY LAW WAS \$152 A DAY. SEN. NELSON SAID HE HOPED CONGRESS WOULD HOLD HEARINGS TO SEE IF THE NRC HAS MADE THE ADMINISTRATIVE CHANGES SUGGESTED BY THE REPORT. END OF SUMMARY OF ARTICLE. WHILE SEN. NELSON WAS SUPPLIED WITH A COPY EVIDENTLY OUR OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE WAS NOT. REPORT IS TO GO INTO THE PDR THIS AFTERNOON.

3. WITH REGARD TO YOUR TWO QUESTIONS:

(A) THERE WILL BE A NEED TO RENEGOTIATE JAPAN'S AGREEMENT FOR COOPERATION.

(B) ACCORDING TO SCHEINMAN, STATE DEPARTMENT, SOME RE-SEARCH ON CO-PROCESSING WAS PERFORMED BY THE JAPANESE DURING 1977. ADDITIONAL EFFORT IS SCHEDULED FOR 1978.

4. THE WASHINGTON POST'S THOMAS O'TOOLE, IN THE FIRST OF TWO ARTICLES 3/13, REPORTS ON THE SPREADING NATIONAL CONTROVERSY OVER NUCLEAR WASTES. HE POINTS OUT THAT PORTLAND GENERAL ELECTRIC'S TROJAN NUCLEAR REACTOR, A TARGET OF ANTINUCLEAR PROTESTORS, NOW FACES AN ISSUE THAT PROMISES TO HEIGHTEN TENSIONS: WHAT TO DO WITH THE FIRST LOAD OF SPENT FUEL THAT'S ABOUT TO BE DISCHARGED FROM THE PLANT.
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A PETITION BY PORTLAND GENERAL TO EXPAND THE SPENT FUEL POOL IN THE YEARS AHEAD HAS PRODUCED SO MUCH PROTEST THAT HEARINGS HELD BY THE NRC ON THE REQUEST ARE IN THEIR THIRD MONTH AND ARE EXPECTED TO GO FOR ANOTHER THREE MONTHS. IN A SECOND STORY TODAY ON SPENT FUEL, THE POST NOTES THAT THE MORRIS, IL., FACILITY IS FILLING UP FAST AND A MOVE TO EXPAND IT FACES A COURT CHALLENGE FROM THE ILLINOIS ATTORNEY GENERAL. THE DOE PLAN FOR DISPOSING OF NUCLEAR WASTES IS EXPECTED THIS WEEK, THE POST REPORTS, AND THE "NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION FIGURES THE U.S. WILL NEED FIVE OR SIX SPENT FUEL STORAGE POOLS SCATTERED AROUND THE COUNTRY TO HANDLE THE NATION'S RADIOACTIVE WASTE BY THE YEAR 2000."

5. DOE DRAFT BILL ON CLEAN-UP OF URANIUM MILL TAILINGS PILES --STAFF REQUESTS COMMISSION VIEWS TO PRESENT AT OMB MEETING MARCH 14, ON THIS BILL. TWO PROBLEMS: (1) STAFF FEELS STATES SHOULD NOT BE REQUIRED TO PROVIDE 25PC OF CLEAN-UP FUNDING; (2) STAFF FEELS THAT NRC MUST HAVE A GREATER ROLE IN THE DECISION ON APPROPRIATE CLEAN-UP PLAN FOR EACH SITE. OGC WOULD RECOMMEND EQUIVALENT OF LICENSING AUTHORITY. STAFF NOT WILLING TO GO THAT FAR, BUT FEELS THAT DOE SHOULD BE SUBJECT TO STANDARDS SET BY NRC FOR

EACH INDIVIDUAL SITE. STANDARDS MUST BE SITE SPECIFIC
BECAUSE EACH TAILINGS PILE PRESENTS A DIFFERENT KIND OF
PROBLEM. GILINSKY REQUESTS YOUR VIEWS ON THIS BEFORE
MEETING. VANCE

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